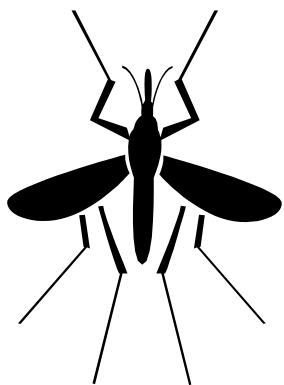


What are the symptoms of a West Nile virus infection?

Most people infected with West Nile virus do not become ill. People with a mild infection may present with fever, headache, eye pain, muscle aches, joint pain, a rash on the trunk and swollen lymph nodes. In severe cases symptoms include extreme muscle weakness, inflammation of the brain (encephalitis), paralysis, and coma. In rare cases the infection may be fatal, particularly in the elderly and people with other medical conditions.

How soon after being bitten by a West Nile virus infected mosquito do symptoms occur?

Symptoms usually occur 5 to 15 days after a West Nile virus infected mosquito bites a person.



**If you find a sick or dead bird, please report it on the Wisconsin Sick or Dead Bird Hotline:
(800) 433-1610.**

The Waukesha County website has information and links to learn more about West Nile Virus.

www.waukeshacounty.gov/humane

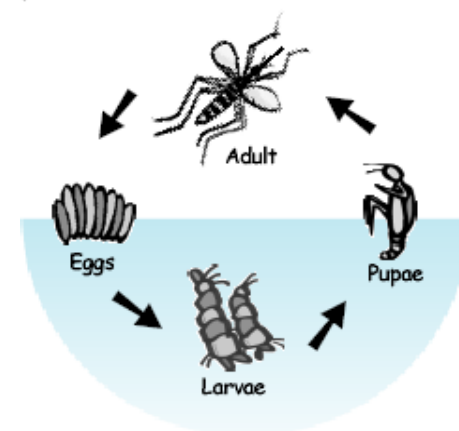
Contact the Waukesha County Environmental Health Division at (262)-896-8300 if you have concerns about potential mosquito breeding habitats in your community.

The information provided is intended to raise awareness of potential mosquito habitat and ways to reduce it.

Information in this brochure was excerpted from:

Bureau of Communicable Diseases
Division of Public Health
WI Department of Health and Family Services

West Nile Virus Information



What is a West Nile virus infection?

It is an infection caused by West Nile virus, which is spread to people by the bite of a mosquito infected with West Nile virus. Viruses that are spread to people by mosquitoes are called arboviruses. In temperate climates, West Nile virus infections generally occur during warm weather months when mosquitoes are active.

Who gets West Nile virus?

Anyone can get infected with West Nile virus. More severe infections are seen in the elderly and those with a weakened immune system.

How is West Nile virus spread?

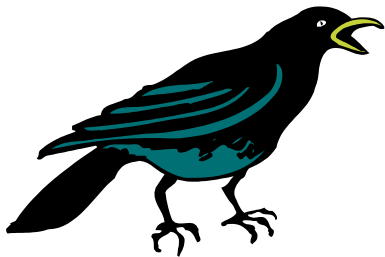
This virus is spread by the bite of a West Nile virus infected mosquito. Mosquitoes get infected with West Nile virus by feeding on infected birds. Although there is no evidence that a person can acquire the virus from handling live or dead birds or other infected animals, it is recommended that gloves be worn. The virus can not be spread from one person to another.

Does past infection with this virus make a person immune?

Yes. Prior infection with West Nile virus can provide lifelong immunity to the virus.

What is the treatment for West Nile virus infection?

There is no specific treatment for West Nile virus infection. A physician may prescribe medications to relieve the symptoms of the illness. In severe cases hospitalization may be required.



REDUCE YOUR RISK OF GETTING WNV

Personal Protective Measures

To prevent mosquito bites, especially when outdoors from dusk to dawn when mosquitoes are most active, or during the day in areas where there are weeds, tall grass, or bushes where mosquitoes may be present, the following preventive measures should be implemented:

- ❑ Wear protective clothing such as long pants, loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts, and socks.
- ❑ Consider using an insect repellant containing DEET.
- ❑ Use DEET products according to the manufacturer's directions on the label.
- ❑ On children, use DEET products containing 10% or less DEET
- ❑ Apply enough repellant to cover exposed skin and clothing.
- ❑ Do not apply insect repellents in enclosed areas.
- ❑ Avoid prolonged or excessive use of DEET products. DEET products remain effective for approximately 4 hours.

At Home, the following precautions should be taken:

- ❑ Make sure that doors and windows have tightly fitting screens.
- ❑ Repair or replace all screens that have tears or holes.

Reduce Mosquito Breeding Habitat
Mosquitoes need standing water to lay their eggs and complete their life cycle to become adults. Reducing or eliminating standing water around your home or property will reduce the habitat needed for mosquitoes to reproduce.

- ❑ Eliminate standing water that collects on your property
- ❑ Remove discarded tires that could hold water.
- ❑ Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers left outside
- ❑ Ensure roof rain gutters drain properly. Clean gutters in the spring and fall and when they are clogged.
- ❑ Clean and chlorinate swimming pools and hot tubs.
- ❑ When not in use, keep pools covered and/or emptied.
- ❑ Drain water from pool covers
- ❑ Change the water in bird baths every 3-4 days.
- ❑ Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.
- ❑ Encourage neighbors to eliminate mosquito breeding sites on their property.